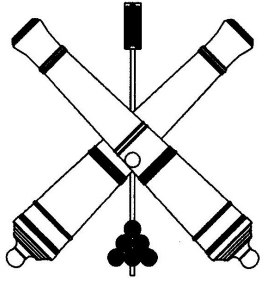


# THE CANNON ASSOCIATION OF



## SOUTH AFRICA

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A service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

### CHANGES WITHIN CAOSA

A new Committee emerged from the AGM in March 2013, well it is a new Committee made up of old members of which most have served on the Committee before.

Jurg returned in the post of Secretary, Barbara is again the Treasurer, Nadine and Erick are members with flexible portfolios, I will take the blame for all failures as Chairman and Martin will pick up the pieces as Vice Chairman.

Jurg is trying to locate and contact past members who have fallen off the radar.

If you feel that you may be one of these please contact Jurg at [jurgz@mweb.co.za](mailto:jurgz@mweb.co.za).

Serious meetings are now conducted in good spirit and with smiles and laughter.

One of the first and most popular tasks was the design and production of CAOSA membership cards which is progressing well. Members will need to provide their ID numbers for these cards.

### CHANGES IN THE WIND

CAOSA recently received a draft document from the SAPS requesting that we provide comment before it is passed to the law makers for consideration. The document includes changes to the Act that would be greatly beneficial to us and to cannon in general. Our support and some carefully considered comment on the document was submitted to the originators.

There are signs that the pending changes will happen within a few months but this will probably have ramifications on the gunner's competency certificates issued by CAOSA.

For this reason we are reluctant to rush the issue of certificates that may be incomplete or considered irrelevant by the SAPS.

### A VISIT FROM CANADA

A keen cannon owner recently returned to SA briefly and contacted me because he wanted to visit his "babies". These "babies" are the four large bronze Portuguese/ Spanish guns in safe keeping at Ke-Monate in Durbanville. So! Are they Portuguese or Spanish? Take your pick, because between 1580 and 1640 when these guns were cast Portugal and Spain were unified – Spanuguese guns???

### BATTLE OF BLOUBERG

Ian van Oordt, members from the Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation area and a team of archaeologists, historians, conservationists and hunters with metal detectors have been making a huge effort to locate the exact positions of the various forces involved in the battle. They have found howitzer shell fragments, musket balls, buttons and coins, they have made

overlays of old and modern maps, located early aerial photographs from the 1930's which still showed the old tracks and trails.

They are keen to have annual commemoration events on the actual battle site and CAOSA has been invited to participate.

Perhaps the subject of cannons will be furthered by their efforts. If you know something that could help them please contact either Ian van Oordt at [built2scale@iburst.co.za](mailto:built2scale@iburst.co.za) or me.

### **TYGERBERG 12 POUNDER**

The 12 Pdr Finbanker gun (Durr 8) which stood outside the Parow Municipal Offices for many years was recently returned to its original position in the Tygerberg Reserve in Bellville. This was the largest of the 54 guns in the old Dutch Call-up System as it could not be simultaneously directed in the three directions in which the signal had to travel from that position.

The already proof fired gun was officially launched at an event organised by the Friends of Tygerberg Hills on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 when Alderman Clive Justus addressed a crowd of around 120 guests and spectators before firing the gun.

This gun now forms an historically accurate and functioning attraction in the reserve where it will be fired on special occasions.

### **THE NAVY FESTIVAL**

CAOSA was again invited to participate in the Navy Festival on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April as we do every year. The Navy provided the powder and we provided the gunners and the guns, a 5 ½ inch Royal Mortar, 9, 7, 6, 3, 2, 1, ½ and ¼ pounder guns and some working models.

Hundreds of shots were fired over the three days without incident and the public absorbed the noise, smoke and smell with grins on their faces.

The trainee gunners were given unique opportunities to work as part of a team and they had the chance to fire guns that are not available anywhere else. One does not have to be nuts to participate, but the black hands, smelly clothes and broad white smiles on blackened faces makes one wonder . . . . !

### **MALELANE EVENT**

Corne Marais, a lawyer situated in Malelane has a BPP and a ¼ pdr gun which he uses to the benefit of the community from time to time. He recently fired a shot to start the Nomazi 400, an off-road motoring event in his area. It should be on TV in the program Supersport on 30 April.

### **NEW CAOSA MEMBERS**

We welcome to CAOSA some new members, they are:-

Gavin Meier from Fish Hoek

Albie Knoetze from Musina

Frikkie Conradie from Brackenfell

Riaan Conradie from Brackenfell

Hannes van Wyk from Mooinooi NW

Riaan also made an additional donation to CAOSA.

Bowen Boshier one of our members also helped to fill the CAOSA coffers with his donation.

### **CAOSA WEBSITE**

Readers are advised that upcoming events are publicised on our website at [www.caosa.org.za](http://www.caosa.org.za)

### **UBIQUE**

Gerry de Vries Chairman /Researcher